



First Central Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

September 26, 2021

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Prelude and Fugue in G

J.S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Katie Miller

*Greeting and Passing of the Peace

"The Peace of God be with you."

In Unison: **Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.**

** Let us rise in body or spirit.*

Call to Worship

Pat Lamberty, liturgist

Great and rich is the legacy we bring.

Many are the gifts we offer to one another.

We are a rainbow of colors, a mosaic of cultures.

Together we are a tower of wisdom and a fellowship of strength.

We are created in the image of one eternal God.

We celebrate the sacred worth of every human being.

Glory to God!

*Processional Hymn

For the Healing of the Nations

For the Healing of the Nations

Fred Kaan, 1965

1 For the heal - ing of the na - tions, God, we pray with
 2 Lead us for - ward in - to free - dom; from de - spair your
 3 All that kills a - bun - dant liv - ing, let it from the
 4 You, Cre - a - tor God, have writ - ten your great name on

one ac - cord; for a just and e - qual shar - ing
 world re - lease, that, re - deemed from war and ha - tred,
 earth be banned; pride of sta - tus, race, or school - ing,
 hu - man - kind; for our grow - ing in your like - ness

of the things that earth af - fords; to a life of
 all may come and go in peace. Show us how through
 dog - mas that ob - scure your plan. In our com - mon
 bring the life of Christ to mind, that by our re -

love in ac - tion help us rise and pledge our word.
 care and good - ness fear will die and hope in - crease.
 quest for jus - tice may we hal - low life's brief span.
 sponse and ser - vice earth its des - ti - ny may find.

***Invocation**

God of nations, bless us all with what we need, in order to move forward in your holy work.
Give us courage, inspire our hearts, renew our minds, and strengthen our resolve. Today, every day, always. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

***Gloria**

Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three in One; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Conversation with the Children

Anthem

River in Judea

Epistle Lesson

Ephesians 2:11-22

For the Word of God in scripture,
For the Word of God within us,
For the Word of God among us,
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Beyond Boundaries

Rev. Katie Miller

***Hymn**

O for a World

O for a World

575

Miriam Therese Winter, 1987

Acts 4:32-35; 1 Cor. 1:26-31; 1 Pet. 3:8-12

1 O for a world where ev - ery - one re - spects each oth - er's ways,
2 O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re - lieved,
3 We wel - come one world fam - i - ly and strug - gle with each choice
4 The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the fool - ish ones are wise.
5 O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo - rious reign of peace,

Where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.
Where truth is spo - ken, chil - dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.
That o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.
Tell all who mourn: out - casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.
Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

Inspired by Charles Wesley's phrase "O for a thousand tongues" and the familiar tune Azmon. Miriam Therese Winter wrote this hymn envisioning a new world order for the Presbyterian Women's Triennial Conference in 1982. It was later recrafted and recorded by the Medical Mission Sisters.

Tune: AZMON C.M.
Carl G. Gläser, 1828

Adapt. Lowell Mason in Modern Psalmody, 1839

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*Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, turn us around so that we will challenge racism and oppression wherever we encounter them. Put the words of apology on our lips and the power of change in our hearts. Lead us in the ways of reconciliation and reparation. Teach us the ways of dismantling racism in this day and time. May the commitments of our lives and the commitments of our churches make a difference as we seek to be your transforming and transformed people. In the name of Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

* Assurance

Through the work of Jesus, the dividing wall that separates us has been broken down. We can be reconciled to God and to one another. We are set free. We may now live in justice and love, experiencing the joy of new life in Christ.

Prayers

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offertory

Interlude in D

Gibbons

*Hymn of Dedication

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Offertory Prayer

O God, you have made every child a holy child. You have given us life and offered us new life in Jesus Christ. We give you thanks. We open our hearts now and give generously to you and to your church so that your dream of a better world might come true. Amen.

*Recessional Hymn

Now Is the Time Approaching

Now Is the Time Approaching

609

Jane Laurie Borthwick, 1859; alt.

Jer. 33:14-16; Isa. 11:6-9; 61:11

1 Now is the time ap - proach - ing, by proph - ets long fore - told,
 2 Let all that now di - vides us re - move and pass a - way,
 3 O long - ex - pect - ed dawn - ing, come with your cheer - ing ray!

when all shall dwell to - geth - er, se - cure and man - i - fold.
 like mists of ear - ly morn - ing be - fore the blaze of day.
 Yet shall the prom - ise beck - on and lead us not a - stray.

Let war be learned no long - er, let strife and tu - mult cease,
 Let all that now u - nites us more sweet and last - ing prove,
 O sweet an - tic - i - pa - tion! It cheers the watch - ers on

all earth a bless - ed gar - den that God shall tend in peace.
 a clos - er bond of un - ion, in bless - ed lands of love.
 to pray, and hope, and la - bor till Christ's new realm is come.

Jane Laurie Borthwick's text titled "Anticipation of Heaven" was published in her *Thoughts for Thoughtful Hours* (1859). George J. Webb, American organist and music publisher, originally wrote this music for a secular song, "The dawn, the look is coming."

Tune: WEBB 7.6.7.6.D.
 George J. Webb, 1837

***Benediction**

Benediction Response

Bouma

May you hear laughter in the wind. May you see hope in the light.
May you find courage in your faith. May you know joy in your God.

Postlude

Prelude and Fugue in D minor

J.S. Bach

Open & Affirming Statement

In our ongoing quest for hearts that open, minds that understand,
and lives that serve, we welcome into our fellowship, membership, leadership, and employment,
all people, regardless of abilities, race, gender, sexual orientation, or any God-given characteristic.

Announcements
September 26, 2021

Prayers: *Barb MacNaughton* and family, on the death of *Luther MacNaughton*. Services will be held **October 16th** at 11; *Nancy Dugan*, injured in a fall and now at Brookestone Meadows for rehab.

Joys: *Rebecca Crosby*, in remission!

Happy Birthday this week: to *Terry Beranek*, *Sam Pfiefer*, and *Alex Gross*.

Chancel flowers and decorations: sponsored this month by *Terry & Pam Beranek*.

FirstKids: will not be held today.

Fair Trade Coffee: sponsors this month *Steve Jackson & Rick Richards; Bev Fleckten; Neha Kumari*.

Want to donate electronically? Please scan the QR code.



Activities for the Coming Week, September 27 – October 2

*Lectionary Readings: Job 1:1, 2:1-10; Psalm 26; Genesis 2:18-24; Psalm 8;
Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16.*

- Tuesday:** Staff meeting, 1:45 p.m., Pastor's Study.
Matching Members to Ministries, 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday:** Evergreen Thrift Shop 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Family Night, brown bag dinner at 5:30, activities at 6 p.m.
Sanctuary Choir, 7 p.m.
Vespers, 8 p.m.
- Thursday:** Evergreen Thrift Shop 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Friday:** Evergreen Thrift Shop 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Saturday:** Evergreen Thrift Shop 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Pet Blessing, 11 a.m., patio.

Sunday, October 3

Worship: 10:30 a.m. on FaceBook Live, YouTube, or in person. Masks required.

First Forum: 9:15 a.m., third floor parlor, exploring anti-racism work as a part of our Brave Space initiative. **Rev. Ellis Arnold**, Associate Conference Minister of the Tri-Conference Ministries of the United Church of Christ, will discuss the anti-racism work of the denomination and its invitation to all congregations to engage in this conversation.

FirstKids: will not be held today.

Food Pantry: Donations will be accepted at church. Checks may be given to First Central with "pantry" in the memo line. Frozen meats are now being accepted (and are needed).

*The church calendar is also available at www.firstcentral.org
Like us on **Facebook**. Follow us on **Twitter**. Watch us on **YouTube**.*